Algae were present in only 0.4% of the examined guts and these only from the meadow samples. Both fungi and algae were represented in samples from both spring and autumn in the soil temperature range 8 - 15°C and the soil moisture range 2 - 4%. Arthropod food was represented in 15% of individuals and largely comprised other kampods – both of the same and different species. Also represented were Acari, Diptera larvae and Protura. Arthropod food featured mostly during the summer when the soil temperature at 5 cms depth was higher, in the range 29 - 32°C and the moisture content was reduced (about 3%). The findings are analysed in table 1.

Table 1: Analysis of contents of mid-gut of kampods from Kragujevac, 1998 - 1990.

Gut contents	Number of individuals
detritus	844
fungal hyphae	337
fungal spores	123
green algae	2
silaceous algae	2
Protura	15
Acari	32
Diptera larvae	23
other kampods	66
All	1476

It is evident that the majority of sampled kampods feed on detritus all year but when the soil is wet their diet also includes fungi – principally in spring and autumn. When the soil is drier, arthropod prey forms a more significant part of the diet.– Bela Blesić, Faculty of Science, University of Kragujevac, 34000 Kragujevac, Yugoslavia.

An unusual habit of *Micropterix tunbergella* (Fabr.) (Lep.: Micropterigidae)

At about midday on 27 April 1998 I was visiting Homefield Wood nature reserve on the Chiltern Hills near Marlow in Buckinghamshire. Whilst there I examined the trunks of some smallish beech *Fagus* trees near the entrance to the reserve; my intention was to search for larvae of psychid moths. My attention was soon drawn to a small metallic microlepidopterous imago that I first took to be an eriocranid. However, I soon realised that this was *Micropterix tunbergella* and that, indeed, there were numerous examples of this species at rest on, and in flight around, these and other tree trunks to a height of two metres or so. The majority were to be found within a foot or so of ground level and all were in perfect condition indicating that they had not long emerged.

The adults of this primitive species have mandibles in place of a haustellum and are stated to feed on the pollen of oak *Quercus* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* flowers (Heath & Emmet, 1976. *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* **1**). Despite searching for this moth on flowers of these trees in season (this is an earlyish date) for the past three or four years the only individuals I have come across were two the previous year on cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* flowers and foliage at a locality about two miles from this one.

Other members of the genus feed on the pollen of hawthorn *Crataegus* and buttercup *Ranunculus* but I could not locate any of these in flower near this locality at the time and there were no oaks or sycamores in flower at this early date. This raises the interesting question of what these adult moths were feeding on. The only obvious source of pollen nearby was sallow *Salix* spp., and I searched these without success. Could the moths have been feeding on the dusty algal growth that was growing abundantly on the beech trunks at this height? This has a consistency similar to pollen and was perhaps being consumed.

I have evidence that this attraction to tree trunks was not an isolated event brought on, perhaps, by the weather conditions on the day (sunny and hot with intermittent heavy rain showers). Knowing that this was a species which Dennis O'keeffe was looking for I telephoned him that night. The following day (overcast) we visited the locality at the same time of day and observed the same behaviour. Unfortunately I did not think to examine the resting adults close enough to investigate if they were feeding on the algae, but will clearly do so if the opportunity arises again. It is unlikely that they were emerging from subterranean pupae and crawling up the trunks to expand their wings during my visits as all the individuals seen (30 or so) had fully expanded wings and were capable of flight if disturbed.– IAN SIMS, 2 The Delph, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 3AN.

A note on the apparent rarity of *Rhamphomyia* (*Holoclera*) *variabilis* (Fln.) (Dip.: Empididae) in Kent.

On page 404 of his monograph (Collin, 1961 *Empididae* in *British Flies* **VI**, 782 pp., Cambridge) J.E. Collin stated that "*R. variabilis* is a common and widely distributed species to be found from the south coast of England to Aberdeen, Elgin and the Isle of Lewis in Scotland. It has also been taken in Wales and Ireland...". It is therefore interesting to note that of over 2000 records for the family Empididae s.s. which have been personally amassed for the county, only six pertain to *Rhamphomyia variabilis*. These were all from a survey of the Mereworth Woods complex in Vice-county 16 undertaken for the Kent Wildlife Trust during 1994. The data are: 13.viii.1994 Mereworth Woods O.S. grid reference TQ 642546; 28.viii.1994 Mereworth Woods, TQ 663553 and TQ 655559; 28.viii.1994 Roadside Wood TQ 647552; 3.ix.1994 Mereworth Woods, TQ 638534 and Peckham Hurst, TQ 638535.

An examination of the records contained in the personal card index file of the late K.C. Side housed at Maidstone Museum revealed two others, one from Hurst Wood (also part of the Mereworth Woods complex) TQ 6255 on 1.ix. 1975 and the other from Bedgebury, TQ 7233 on 29.viii. 1973.